



## Economic and Social Council

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### Substantive session of 2006

Geneva, 3-28 July 2006

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

**Creating an environment at the national and international levels,  
conducive to generating full and productive employment and  
decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development**

### **Statement submitted by the International Telecommunication Academy, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

\* E/2006/100.



## Statement

### **Recommendations submitted on behalf of 700 academic experts from 46 countries and from 420 organizations through the International Telecommunication Academy**

On 19-20 April, in Moscow the International Telecommunication Academy held its Jubilee International Congress ITA'06 "InfoCommunication Technologies in the Global Information Society of the 21st Century". The Congress was technically, socio-economically oriented and the main goals were the analysis of the basic development tendencies. At the opening prominent guests were Representative of the United Nations Non-governmental Organizations Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Director of the Outreach Division, of the Department of Public Information, Head of the Russian Federal Agency on Information Technologies, V. Matyukhin, Director General of the "Syazinvest" JSC, V. Yashin, Vice-President of the "Company TransTeleCom" JSC, A. Zemtsov, Vice-President of Siemens Russia, R. Armes.

The Jubilee Congress was attended by representatives of the United Nations, International Telecommunication Union, UNESCO, ministries and governmental institutions of the Russian Federation as well as top managerial staff of the biggest Russian and international infocommunication companies.

The International Telecommunication Academy is 10 years old. During its 10 years, ITA implemented high technologies that are a basis for an information society development, both in the world and in the Russian Federation. For the last 10 years, ITA worked on education, medicine, environment, women and children in the world, implementing technologies in advance of their time. The jubilee was celebrated taking into consideration the High Level Segment theme of the Economic and Social Council. The expansion of full and productive employment and decent work has increasingly been seen as the key area of global concern and the need to place employment at the centre of economic and social policies. ITA knows that ICT has tremendous potential for improving the employment of a new generation to come.

The Congress emphasized that high technologies were a basis of an information society development, both in the world and in the Russian Federation. Science, technical art, business and social economics were components of man's activity, providing sustainable development to all human society. The International Telecommunication Academy, as the scientific integrator and the distributor of infocommunication knowledge in the Russian Federation and internationally, made a contribution to development.

The Congress confirmed that in the next decade grandiose tasks are set in front of the Academy, namely: forming an Information Society Development Strategy in the twenty-first century on the basis of monitoring digital and economic divide, forecasting a development of infocommunication technologies and their influence on society development, synergy in infocommunications, harmonization of social and economic relations and stability of development during GIS epoch and many other things.

For the period from 2006 to 2011, the following areas of scientific activity of the Academy's members in frameworks of ITA social and scientific project

"Infocommunications of the 21st Century" are the most important for reaching the basic ITA purpose:

1. Research in dynamics of development of the Global Information Society, and forming recommendations on development of the Russian Information Society
2. Research and monitoring of digital and economic divide during an epoch of the Global Information Society
3. Research in prospective infocommunication technologies and development of recommendations on economic efficiency of infocommunication companies
4. Future infocommunication structures, systems and networks: technical equipment, technologies and standards
5. Potential characteristics of infocommunications and levels of saturation in volumes of infocommunication services: technological and economic issues
6. Economic and financial cost of infocommunication companies
7. Social and economic aspects of the ICT branch: creation of new work places as an important factor of sustainable development
8. Structural stability of infocommunication companies
9. Corporate codes and the ethics in the Infocommunication branch
10. Infocommunications in global and national economies: the Russian aspects
11. Infocommunication influence on economic development
12. Social and economic role of infocommunications in development of the society
13. Research in social infocommunication telefunctions: human contacts, education, medicine, culture and creativity
14. Infocommunication in prospective control systems
15. Synergy in infocommunications
16. Laws and regularities of infocommunications development, and application of them to forecast a growth of infocommunication companies incomes
17. ICT for the means of education, medicine, health and other social programmes, as a tool for fighting poverty.

The Congress accepts the following recommendations:

1. The reports submitted to the Congress, conclusions and recommendations formulated by reporters should be considered as one more stage in enhancement of the strategic tasks formulated on the first General Assembly of our Academy in 2003:

- providing a professional contribution to development of the Global Information Society;

- promotion of steady social and economic development of the civil society and of the role of infocommunication growth.

The solution of these problems is of great importance for the international organizations including the United Nations and ITU, and for the Russian Federation.

2. Importance of practically implementing a task plan of ITA members scientific activity should be noted.

3. Active participation of the International Telecommunication Academy Members in the work of the Academy's scientific groups on preparation and edition of the book series "Infocom of the 21st Century" is recommended.

This series contains the following basic sections:

- Scientific and technical art, theory of development and opportunities of infocommunications;
- Business and sustainable development: macroeconomics of infocommunications;
- Infocommunication revolution: results and development;
- Trends in infocommunication development until 2025.

4. As the new global world continues to progress ITA sees how the International Telecommunication Academy continues to evolve. ITA sees how it has embraced the use of technology communication and the sharing of the information to create a society that progresses towards development that is sustainable with all the advantages that come with it. ITA also sees how their goals merge and mirror the goal of global alliance for ICT and development.

But let us not forget the ethics. This new ICT world will make corporate society responsible and major commitment will force us to address challenges including poverty, diseases, discrimination, ignorance and exclusion.

5. Organizing the implementation of recommendations accepted by the Congress shall be delegated to the ITA Presidium.



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**Substantive session of 2006**

Geneva, 3-28 July 2006

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

**Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development**

**Statement submitted by Hope for the Nations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* E/2006/100.



## **Statement**

The following statements of conscience and mechanisms for implementation, as well as general recommendations, were adopted by the workshop. In addition, three NGOs presented their own, specific recommendations to be included.

### **1. Statements of Conscience**

- Malevolent national, international and corporate labour practises that create immense human suffering and affect all workers, especially women and children (employed or not), must be addressed. Specifically, industrial activity harming the human environment, especially water supply, must be examined.
- Action must be taken against labour practises that are exploitative and exacerbate gender inequality and sexual exploitation of women and children, including, but not limited to diverse forms of slavery and bonded servitude.

### **2. Mechanisms for Change**

- Employment issues, in both private and public sectors must be reviewed.
- Sustainable development must be achieved. Environmental damage created by industry must be effectively repaired through innovative measures, for example, turning polluted water into grey water or purer water.
- NGOs must collaborate, utilizing the expertise of each other to facilitate "grass roots" empowerment of people, making them aware of the existing laws to eliminate exploitation and malpractice.
- Community involvement must be encouraged, so initiatives, once started, continue after the initial funding is exhausted. Templates that are successful and transferable must be created.

### **3. General Recommendations**

- Although the problems identified are immediate, a long-term solution must be found.
- The valuable, unpaid work of women must be acknowledged. The value of this work must be quantified. The creation of micro-enterprises that utilize skills women have, but do not receive pay for, must be sought.
- Both formal and practical education must be promoted.
- Ensure accountability and follow up of adequate government grants for development.
- The work of NGOs and civil society (coordinated and independent work) must be promoted.
- Emancipate and empower women.
- Encourage the provision of free primary education.
- Encourage partnerships among NGOs to permit NGOs to operate with more power and draw on each other's expertise.
- Encourage the development of agricultural practises that recognize and utilize local knowledge to help populations be more independent in sustainable food production.

- Create effective mechanisms for citizens to effect change in government policies and legislation.
- Promote youth representation at all levels of the United Nations.
- Raise awareness of the benefits, rather than the costs, of social programmes with the objective that such programmes are viewed as investments.
- Work to increase the capacity of current, income-generating practises and, if necessary, redirect activities for positive outcomes. For example, the substitution of opium cultivation for alternative crops.
- Encourage the appreciation of cultural diversity and expertise. Do not impose a Euro-centric understanding or practise on other groups.
- Seek to share knowledge and incorporate others people's ways of doing things. Attempt to maintain the "best" practises of each culture

#### 4. Specific Recommendations/Statements from Participants

Opportunity was provided for each group represented at the Workshop to submit specific recommendations, relevant to the topics addressed. Three organizations submitted statements/recommendations: The National Council of Women of Canada, the World Organization of Building Officials, and YWCA Canada.

##### The National Council of Women of Canada

It is imperative to restore and promote standard employment relations and restore proportional benefits. Uniform labour standards must be implemented across Canada, and contract work must be reduced.

##### World Organization of Building Officials

Prepared to work with all stakeholders to:

- improve the living conditions of the people of the world;
- provide model building, fire and all the other related codes;
- make recommendations to revise, modify or amend legislation and codes relating to building construction including safety in the built environment;
- provide education and training to the regulators;
- create and improve standards; and
- create standards for construction of buildings for that segment of the population that cannot afford to meet with the standards that are applicable and prevalent in the urban areas.

YWCA Canada suggested the following:

##### Women's Poverty:

- Social assistance rates in all jurisdictions must be raised to meet the poverty line (coherent regulated transfers in the CST)
- Pay/Employment equity legislation must be implemented
- EI reforms must be successfully implemented
- Social housing monies are applied in ways which benefit women

##### Violence against Women and Girls:

- A federal contribution of \$50 million annually for women's crisis centres, shelters and transition homes

#### Civil Legal Aid and Court Challenges

- A federal transfer earmarked for civil legal aid and minimum national standards for services (as per the Canadian Bar Association Constitutional challenge)
- Expansion of the mandate of the Court Challenges Programme

#### Aboriginal Women

- The recognition of the full right of Aboriginal women to pass on Indian Status to their children and grandchildren, regardless of previous history of 'marrying out'
- The implementation of interim legislation that gives First Nations women matrimonial property rights equivalent to the rights of all other women in Canada. This legislation would eventually be replaced by new self-government legislation offering women protections
- Both interim legislation and future arrangements under self-government must be subject to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, including the equality sections. The use of the notwithstanding clause would be unacceptable.

#### Immigrant, Refugee and Migrant Women

- Remove all discrimination from the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- Remove the live-in requirement from the Live-in Care-giver Program and facilitate immigration for these workers

#### Child Care

- A publicly funded system for quality child care parents can count on and afford. Government should provide most of the funding directly to programs, giving them a stable operating base. The balance of the cost will be paid for by a low user fee for parents. In Quebec, for example, parents pay a maximum \$7 a day and government pays the rest.
- A Federal Child Care Act that guarantees standards and the principles of quality, universality, accessibility, developmental programming and inclusiveness. Similar to the Canada Health Act.
- Public accountability tied to provincial and territorial five-year plans containing goals, timelines, targets, and a way to measure real progress in developing comprehensive family and centre-based child care services.
- A system delivered and expanded in the not-for-profit sector with a transition plan developed for existing commercial operators.
- A public funding system that ensures that public funds go directly to services providers.

#### Women's Organizations

Restoration of core-funding so that equality-seeking women's organizations are properly supported.



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**Creating an environment at the national and international  
levels conducive to generating full and productive employment  
and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development**

**Statement submitted by W. Haywood Burns Environmental  
Education Center, a non-governmental organization in  
consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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## **Statement**

The conference included a total of 134 participants: New York Legislative Representatives; Educators; a representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; a Special Advisor on Immigrant Populations; Environmental Protection Agency of the United States of America; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; State University of New York at Albany; Rutgers University; College of St. Rose; Groundworks USA; local environmental authorities; Times Union, New York State Legislative Gazette; WNYT-13 (NBC); civil society organizations; non-governmental organization coalitions; and victims of Hurricane Katrina. Conference discussions included the environmental effects on disadvantaged urban communities. We primarily addressed three issues: Exploring the social and economical conditions created by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; Assessing the short-term health and environmental needs of these underserved communities; and developing methods and tools to help rebuild and rehabilitate those areas. After deliberations, participants adopted the Albany Declaration in the spirit of human civilization, human rights, and sustainable development in order to promote a healthy, equitable and environmentally sustainable life for all and achieve the MDGs.

### **The Albany Declaration**

#### **For a Healthy, Equitable and Environmentally Sustainable Life for All**

##### **PREAMBLE**

**We the participants**, representing government, local authorities, public agencies, NGO coalitions and civil society at the 4th Annual Global Conference: **"Analyzing Healthy Urban Environments Through Exploring Human and Civil Rights: Katrina; a Case Study"** gathered in Albany, the Capital of the State of New York from February 17-18, 2006;

**Whereas** recent natural and man-made world disasters have led to the recognition of the stark differences and disparities in health, education, housing, employment, economics, technology and the environment in disadvantaged inhabitants of around the world;

**Whereas** universal education, water rights, labor, digital divide, living wages, viable energy, and access to health care promote stability and positive citizenry participation in the global community;

**Whereas** civic engagement in public policies, equity and social justice is essential to eradicate poverty, ensure environmental justice and achieve the internationally agreed development goals (MDGs);

**Whereas**, participants are highly appreciative of the innovative approach and strategic framework of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to monitor the post-disaster Tsunami outcome;

We the participants request the government, local authorities, NGOs and all stakeholders to sponsor and support:

1. Structuring The Global Urban Health Network to provide a communication bridge.

2. Establishing the International Center for Sustainable Development (Panama) as a new model for integrated knowledge management;

3. Requesting with urgency that the United Nations sponsor regional preparatory committee meetings for Southern Caucus NGOs which will create opportunities for all stakeholders to develop strategies to achieve the Millennium Declaration Goals (MDGs).

4. Request the Department and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to support the formulation and the implementation of a strategic framework to monitor the post-disaster Katrina outcome;

**We the participants proclaim the Albany Declaration** as a consensus statement of recommendations and request our host, the NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, **W. Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center**, to submit it to the High-level segment and the Coordination segment at the substantive session of 2006 for integration into the ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration of July 2006;